



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

TESTIMONY OF ANNE FOLEY, CHAIR TOBACCO AND HEALTH TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO THE JOINT COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH

January 4, 2010

Regarding FY 2010 Recommendation for Disbursement From the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund

Senator Harp, Senator Harris, Representative Geragosian, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Public Health Committees, my name is Anne Foley and I am the Chair of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board of Trustees. On behalf of the Tobacco Board, I am here today to ask for your support of the board's recommendations for disbursement as contained in our FY 2010 report. As required by statute, the report contains: 1) the board's 2009 activities and accomplishments; 2) a summary of all disbursements and other expenditures from the trust fund; and 3) recommendations for authorization of disbursement from the trust fund.

As you know, Public Act 99-2 of the June Special Session established a Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is a separate, non-lapsing fund that accepts transfers from the Tobacco Settlement Fund. The balance in the trust fund as of June 30, 2009 was \$11.6 million.

The Board of Trustees was established by Public Act 00-216 to administer the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. The board has appeared before the committees of cognizance to seek approval for disbursement of trust funds on five previous occasions: in fiscal years 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009. All five board proposals, totaling approximately \$9.1 million, were approved by the committees.

Most recently, in FY 2009, the board sought and received the committee's approval to disburse \$6.8 million for counter-marketing, community-based cessation, specialized cessation for persons with mental illness, the QuitLine telephone service, school-based prevention, lung cancer research, and evaluation. This amount of funding and variety of programs funded represented a substantial increase over previous years' awards and was made possible by Public Act 08-145, An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Regarding the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund. As a result of this legislation, the board was able to recommend disbursement of up to half of the annual

deposit into the trust fund, to a maximum of \$6 million annually, in addition to the earnings of the fund. The \$6.8 million recommended for disbursement in FY09 represented a tripling of the total amount of funding disbursed by the Board in all previous years of the trust fund's existence.

In developing our fiscal year 2010 recommendations for disbursement, the Board began by convening a hearing in April to receive public input. At board meetings during the summer and fall, the board reviewed statutory mandates, guiding principles, past disbursements, federal and state plans and information, and recommendations from various organizations and individuals. The Board's analysis and deliberations have resulted in the proposal you have before you today which complements and enhances existing programming and expenditure. We believe this proposal is practical, balanced, comprehensive, and consistent with existing public research and plans.

The FY 2010 disbursement proposal of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board has eight major components totaling \$6,377,745 which is the maximum amount allowable:

- Counter Marketing. The Board recommends \$1,650,000 be disbursed for a two-pronged counter marketing campaign including a statewide media campaign and local community efforts.
- Community-Based Cessation. The Board recommends \$750,000 be disbursed for intensive intervention strategies to help people quit smoking including counseling and pharmacotherapy.
- Cessation for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness. The Board recommends \$800,000 be disbursed for tobacco cessation programming targeting individuals with serious mental illness who receive publicly-funded mental health services through the private, non-profit sector
- QuitLine. The Board recommends \$1,650,000 be disbursed for a tobacco cessation telephone service including information, counseling and pharmacotherapy.
- School-Based Prevention. The Board recommends \$500,000 be disbursed for 10-20 school districts to implement tobacco use prevention and cessation programs.
- Lung Cancer and Genetic Research. The Board recommends \$250,000 be disbursed to support a lung tissue biorepository feasibility study and demonstration project and genetic research.
- Innovative Programs. The Board recommends \$477,745 for new and innovative programs that do not fit into other categories.

- Evaluation. The Board recommends \$300,000 be disbursed to monitor program accountability including progress in achieving outcome objectives.

In summary, this proposal represents a substantial opportunity for Connecticut to continue its progress toward achieving long term reductions in tobacco use and tobacco-related illness and death. Connecticut continues to be lauded by national organizations for preventing youth access to tobacco, for our taxation policies which deter smoking, and for our smoke-free air laws - the proposal you have before you today will help us maintain our fiscal commitment to tobacco prevention and control.

On behalf of the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board, I thank you for your past support of the Board's efforts and respectfully request your approval of this plan. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.